



HR1389

LRB097 23869 MST 73152 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Representative Sidney
4 Mathias on his distinguished service to the Illinois 51st and
5 53rd Legislative Districts and the people of the State of
6 Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has been a member of the
8 Illinois House since 1999 and has served this body with honor
9 and distinction; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias graduated from South Shore
11 High School in 1962, earned a bachelor of science degree in
12 Mathematics from Roosevelt University in 1966, and a juris
13 doctorate degree from DePaul University's College of Law in
14 1968; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias is a recently-retired
16 attorney who practiced in Arlington Heights for 40 years; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has been married to his
18 wife, Rita for 40 years, and has two adult sons, Rabbi Elliot
19 and Rabbi Scott, and has 6 grandchildren; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias began his 30-years of

1 community service in 1983 as a member of the Buffalo Grove
2 Zoning Board of Appeals; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias continued his community
4 service as a village trustee in Buffalo Grove from 1988-1991;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias was elected by the people
7 of Buffalo Grove to serve as their village president from
8 1991-1999, where he became a leading voice on transportation
9 issues and was a driving force behind bringing the North
10 Central Line and the Sidney H. Mathias Transit Center to
11 Buffalo Grove; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias was first elected to the
13 Illinois House in 1998 and is completing 7 consecutive two-year
14 terms in office; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has represented with
16 distinction the people of Cook and Lake Counties in the
17 communities of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling,
18 Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Palatine, Long Grove, Deer
19 Park, Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich, Barrington, Hoffman
20 Estates, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Kildeer, and Inverness; and

21 WHEREAS, Since being elected to the House of

1 Representatives, Representative Mathias has served with
2 distinction on the Mass Transit committee as the Republican
3 Spokesperson, the Local Government committee as the Republican
4 Spokesperson, the Cities & Villages committee as the Republican
5 Spokesperson, the Tollway Oversight committee as the
6 Republican Spokesperson, and the Mass Transit for Northeastern
7 Illinois committee as the Republican Spokesperson; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has also served as a member
9 in good standing of the Judiciary I-Civil Law committee, the
10 State Government Administration committee, the Select
11 Committee on Discipline, the Appropriations-General Service
12 committee, the Railroad Industry committee, the Health Care
13 Availability Access committee, the Transportation & Motor
14 Vehicles committee, the subcommittee on Railroads, the
15 Adoption Reform committee, the Transit Management and
16 Performance committee, the Appropriations-Public Safety
17 committee, the Aging committee, the Financial Institutions
18 committee, the Airports committee, and the Illinois State Toll
19 Highway Authority committee; and

20 WHEREAS, During his 14-year term as a State Representative
21 Mathias served as a chief sponsor of more than 120 public acts
22 and as a chief co-sponsor or co-sponsor of hundreds of
23 additional public acts; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has been a vocal opponent
2 of tax increases during his 14 years in office; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has been a tireless
4 advocate for children and adults with disabilities as well as
5 special needs children; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias had a key role in reforming
7 the State's Regional Transportation Authority by helping to
8 bring financial stability and continuity of service to CTA,
9 Metra and Pace; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias was deeply involved with
11 bringing significant transportation improvements to his
12 region, including the Route 22 bypass in Lake Zurich; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias fought with determination
14 for the extension of Route 53 into Lake County by bringing key
15 decision-makers together to build consensus for the project; he
16 has also served on various councils instrumental in determining
17 the feasibility for the extension of Route 53; and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has made other innumerable
19 contributions to the public good through his service to the
20 Northwest Municipal Conference, the Northwest Council of
21 Mayors, the Illinois Alzheimer's Legislators Alliance, the

1 Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission, the Lake County
2 Municipal League, the Illinois Municipal League, the North
3 Central Metra Service Mayoral Task Force, the Corridor Planning
4 Council of Central Lake County, the National Conference of
5 State Legislatures Transportation committee, the National
6 League of Cities Transportation & Communications committees,
7 the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, the Solid Waste
8 Agency of Northern Cook County, the Cook County Circuit Court,
9 the College of Lake County's Southeast Regional Planning
10 Council, Roosevelt University's Community Advisory Board, the
11 Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, the Northwest
12 Suburban Jewish Community Center, and to the Buffalo Grove Park
13 District; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has been a long-standing
15 member of the Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, and
16 Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chambers of Commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias has received numerous
18 awards and recognitions, including the Outstanding Legislator
19 of the Year Award and the Community Service Award from the
20 Illinois Association of Park Districts, the Friend of
21 Agriculture Award from the Lake County Farm Bureau, the
22 Legislator of the Year Award from the Illinois Psychological
23 Association, the Lung Health Champion Award from the
24 Respiratory Health Association, and Legislator of the Year from

1 the Illinois Child Care Association; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias traveled to Israel in 2012
3 as part of a delegation of Illinois leaders to advance the
4 economic and cultural ties between Illinois and Israel; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Mathias and his family understand
6 firsthand the suffering and challenges faced by the Jewish
7 community; his father, Ernest Mathias, was a Holocaust survivor
8 who was arrested on Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) in
9 Germany and sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp; his
10 father was able to secure safe passage to America where he
11 worked in Chicago stockyards until becoming a business owner;
12 tragically, Ernest Mathias' parents and 3 sisters were murdered
13 in concentration camps during World War II; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we wish Representative Mathias all the best in his future
17 endeavors and congratulate him on a job well done in the
18 General Assembly; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Representative Mathias, his wife Rita, and their
21 family, as an expression of our esteem and respect for our
22 colleague and friend.